

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: January 2009

MEPAG Meeting #20: March 3-4, 2009 in Arlington, VA..

Mars Science News

Letter from the outgoing NASA Advisory Council Chair.

Dear Jack and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group,

In addition to your support of the Planetary Sciences Subcommittee, I want to especially thank you and the MEPAG for providing the NASA Advisory Council and Administrator, Mike Griffin, with your experience and expertise as the Agency and the nation move forward in space. The Analysis Groups play a unique function in the advisory structure of NASA and we are most appreciative of the time you devote to that effort.

As you know, personnel regulations kept me from continuing as Council Chair. It was a rewarding three years, believe me. I know that the new Chair, Ken Ford, will appreciate your contributions as much as I have.

A most Happy and Productive New Year to you all! If I can be of any assistance in the future, just let me know.

Jack Schmitt
Chair of the NASA Advisory Council

MEPAG #20 is March 3-4 in Arlington, Virginia.

We have a block of 65 sleeping rooms reserved for arrival on March 2 and departing as late as March 4 at the government rate of \$209.00 plus 10.25% tax. The Block code is "MEP." If you have any problems, mention the MEPAG meeting. The cutoff date for the room block is February 3.

These rooms are reserved on a first come first served basis.

Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark, 1900 North Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209.
Phone: (703) 807-2000

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>First Quarter, 2009</i>		
	January 12-13, 2009 Adelphi, Maryland	Small Bodies Assessment Group The Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG) will hold its delayed inaugural meeting on January 12 - 13, 2009, at the Marriott Inn and Conference Center at University of Maryland, 3501 University Blvd East. Adelphi, Maryland. Participants will receive information on the general status of small bodies programs conducted through NASA Headquarters, and individual presentations on proposed robotic small bodies missions. Detailed information will be available on the SBAG web site: http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/
	January 14-16, 2009	Mars Express Science Team Meeting (SWT) In conjunction with Venus Express SWT (12-13 January 2009), ESTEC, Noordwijk Netherlands, contact Agustin Chicarro (Agustin.Chicarro@esa.int) or Olivier Witasse (owitasse@rssd.esa.int)
	February 25, 2009 Houston, Texas	VEXAG (Venus Exploration Analysis Group) Meeting #5 In conjunction with Workshop on Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas, contact Ellen Stofan (ellen@proxemy.com)
	DATE CHANGE February 26-27, 2009 Houston, Texas	Venus Geochemistry: Progress, Prospects, and New Missions Gilruth Center, JSC http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/venus2009/
	March 3-4, 2009 Arlington, Virginia	MEPAG (Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group) Meeting #20
	March 7-14, 2009 Big Sky, Montana	2009 IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/
	March 9-10, 2009 DC area	OPAG meeting http://www.lpi.usra.edu/opag/
	March 21-22, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	Volcanism on the Moon and Mercury: A New Paradigm in Comparative Planetology http://www.planetary.brown.edu/html_pages/micro49.htm
 	March 22, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	MRO/CRISM Data Users' Workshop: The day before the 40 th LPSC, will be held at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, The Woodlands, Texas. High-resolution hyperspectral images from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's CRISM Imaging spectrometer have been released to the PDS with a variety of ancillary data that support map projection, correction of surface measurements for photometric and atmospheric effects, and basic processing of the data. In addition, global mapping data at a reduced spatial resolution have been released in map-projected form as nearly 2000 tiles each covering about 0.05% of Mars' surface. In addition the CRISM team has developed and tested a number of specialized tools that plug in to ITT Visual Information Systems' ENVI software package. These will be publicly available in early 2009. At this workshop CRISM team members will review basic CRISM data products and their uses, acquaint data users with online tools to search the data set, and provide a tutorial of how to use custom software available under ENVI. Contacts: Scott Murchie (Scott.Murchie@JHUAPL.EDU) or Frank Seelos (Frank.Seelos@jhuapl.edu)

	March 23-27, 2009 The Woodlands, Texas	40th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC 2009) Abstract deadline January 8, 2009. Note new location; The Woodlands, TX http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2009/
<i>Second Quarter, 2009</i>		
	April 2-4, 2009 Mainz, Germany	Conference on Micro-Raman Spectroscopy and Luminescence Studies in the Earth and Planetary Sciences http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/spectroscopy2009/
	May 11-15, 2009 Noordwijk, THE NETHERLANDS	International Conference on Comparative Planetology: Venus-Earth-Mars at ESTEC Abstracts due March 2, 2009 Contact: Augustin Chicarro, Augustin.Chicarro@esa.int or Hakan Svedhem, Hakan.Svedhem@esa.int http://www.rssd.esa.int/eslab-2009/
	June 13-14, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	Planetary Protection Short Course http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 14-20, 2009 Castellaneta M., Italy	XIV International Clay Conference Note special session on Clay Minerals in Extraterrestrial Environments will include a plenary lecture by Dr. Nick Tosca, "Extracting Aqueous Chemistry from Clay-Bearing Assemblages Formed on Ancient Mars." http://www.14icc.org/
	June 15-19, 2009 Barcelona, Spain	7th International Planetary Probe Workshop Abstract deadline March 1, 2009 http://www.planetaryprobe.eu/
	June 21-26, 2009 Davos, Switzerland	Goldschmidt™ 2009 - "Challenges to Our Volatile Planet" Note key theme areas of Mars interest: Theme 1: Nebular Processes, Planet Formation and Comparative Planetology Theme 2: Earth, The Early Years: Building a Habitable Planet Theme 16: Life at the Edge: Extreme Environments http://www.goldschmidt2009.org
<i>Third Quarter, 2009</i>		
	July 6-11, 2009 Melbourne, Australia	7th International Conference on Geomorphology Ancient Landscapes – Modern Perspectives Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre There will be dedicated sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and a field trip to examine analog landscapes in South Australia. http://www.geomorphology2009.com/ (Submitted by Mary Bourke, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, Arizona)
	July 13–18, 2009 Nancy, FRANCE	72nd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Marc Chaussidon, Guy Libourel or Bernard Marty http://www.metsoc2009.org/
	September 13-18, 2009 Potsdam, Germany	European Planetary Science Congress http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc2009/information/index.html

	September 20-23, 2009 Alghero, Sardinia, Italy	International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) Meeting Session T7: Sedimentology and Stratigraphy in the inner and Outer Solar System Fieldtrip FT5: Tunisian desert: a perfect place to simulate landing on Mars http://www.ias2009.com/
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2009</i>		
	RESCHEDULED October 2009	Fourth MSL Landing Site workshop
	October 4-9, 2009 San Juan, Puerto Rico	41st Annual Meeting DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 18-21, 2009 Portland, Oregon	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 14-18, 2009 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2010</i>		
	March 2010 Houston, Texas	Lunar and Planetary Science Conference
	June 8-12, 2010 Oslo, Norway	International Polar Year Oslo Science Conference http://www.ipy-osc.no/
	July 18-25, 2010 Bremen, GERMANY	38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly Abstract Deadline: Mid-February 2010 Topics: - SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System - SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres - SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres - Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Contact: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr http://www.cospar2010.org/ or http://www.cospar-assembly.org
	July 25 or August 1, 2010 Toronto, Ontario CANADA	73rd Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Dr. G. Srinivasan http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2010	Fifth MSL Landing Site workshop
	October 18-22, 2010 Madison, WI	42nd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 31- November 3, 2010 Denver, Colorado	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/

	December 13–17, 2010 San Francisco, California	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2011</i>		
	July 2011 Pasadena, California	8th International Conference on Mars California Institute of Technology
	August 2011 Greenwich ENGLAND, UK	74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Gretchen Benedix http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	October 2011 Nice, FRANCE	43rd Annual Meeting of the DPS http://www.aas.org/dps/meetings.html
	October 9–12, 2011 Minneapolis, Minnesota	Geological Society of America National Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/
	December 12–16, 2011 San Francisco, CA	AGU Fall Meeting www.agu.org/meetings
<i>2012</i>		
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Contact: Trevor Ireland http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	The 34th International Geological Congress http://www.33iqc.org/

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/ meetings:

Rosh Hashanah	9/30/2008	9/19/2009	9/9/2010	9/29/2011	9/17/2012
Yom Kippur	10/9/2008	9/28/2009	9/18/2010	10/8/2011	9/26/2012
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Good Friday		4/10/2009	4/2/2010	4/22/2011	4/6/2012
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2008	11/26/2009	11/25/2010	11/24/2011	11/22/2012
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2008	10/12/2009	10/11/2010	10/10/2011	10/8/2012

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.